

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Councillors held on Tuesday 17th March 2009 in Aberford Church of England School.

PRESENT: Councillors D. Howson, I. Forster, P. Hancock
Apologies received from Councillors D. Gluck, D. Stainton
Councillors Mrs G. Broadley and R. Alderson were not present.

Also present: 6 members of the public – Clerk – 2 Police representatives

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that those present should discuss the matters they were able to progress, as a Quorum was not present. This was agreed.

09/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 17th February had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Forster and seconded by Cllr. Hancock that the same were a true record.

09/23 POLICE MATTERS

PC Katkowski and PCSO Sillers attended and gave a report. There had been two burglaries in the village and some property taken from a vehicle. There had been an increase in poaching and farm crime and some anti-social behaviour in the school area. The children responsible for the latter were being dealt with and parents had been co-operative. The priorities for the coming month would be countering speeding in Main Street, keeping a watch out for anti-social behaviour and working with local farmers to deter poaching and theft in the rural outskirts. The priorities would be re-assessed every month. A request was made to put an item in the forthcoming Newsletter about policing – to ask residents to make known to their Councillors or Clerk what they would like to see prioritised. Cllr Hancock asked for a further visit to be made to a resident in Humphreydale where a dog was giving concern to walkers and dog walkers in particular. Later in the meeting the Chairman said he had asked the police to monitor the Kingfisher Lane area where rubbish was increasingly being illegally dumped.

09/24 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Referring to Minute 09/14 (a) Leeds in Bloom - Cllr Hancock and the 'in Bloom' group had done a walk-about and identified some areas which could be initially improved, such as around the entrances to the village, Pump Hill and one or two places in between. There had been some dumping of rubble, branches and hedge cuttings on Council land at the north end which required attention and an in-depth litter pick would be another necessary thing. Mr Gill from LCC advised planting bulbs in groups rather than over a wider area as this facilitated grass cutting. More volunteers were needed and it was hoped that residents would respond to this initiative which would be mentioned in the Newsletter.

(b) Referring to Minute 09/14 (b) Parish Plan – Cllr Gluck had asked to defer this item until the April meeting.

(c) Referring to Minute 09/14 (c) Dog Fouling – Cllr Hancock said that the LCC Dog Warden had put up some notices. These seemed to have had some effect as dog walkers had been observed clearing up after their animals. One or two people had been reported and the complaints were being followed up. Some notices had been obtained by the Clerk and were

available to be put up as necessary. A reply was awaited from LCC Environmental services about extra litter bins.

(d) Referring to Minute 09/14 (d) War Memorial – Cllr Howson reported that someone from Lawnswood Cemetery had been to look at the Memorial and he was to obtain two estimates for the work for the PC to consider. LCC would not underwrite the cost as had been thought.

(e) Referring to Minute 09/14 (e) Streetlights – A meeting had been held with Mr Brummitt of SEC about the footpath in Cattle Lane. He had agreed to move the lights and had emailed a plan which had been forwarded to Councillors. A plan for Main Street was awaited. The zigzag markings had been extended at the bottom of School Lane in Main Street to make the area safer for children.

(f) Referring to Minute 09/14 (f) Footpath Lotherton Lane – LCC Highways were not able to fund upgrading to allow wheelchairs to use this as it would cost around £30,000. However the path still needed to be widened to allow pushchairs and walkers to safely walk there.

(g) Referring to Minute 09/14 (g) School Field/Tennis Courts – the Chairman said that the two leaseholders of the Tennis courts had written to LCC surrendering their lease but had been sent a multi-page document to complete and he understood there were some arrears of rent to be paid but he understood this matter would be sorted out shortly. The appropriate LCC Department would then decide their response to the PC's letter asking for the area to be leased to them for a peppercorn rent.

(h) Referring to Minute 09/14 (h) Manhole Covers Kingfisher Lane – completed.

(i) Referring to Minute 09/14 (i) Swing Repairs – completed. The suppliers had commented that it was very rare that the bushes broke and was almost certainly due to misuse. Some spares had been left with the Chairman.

(j) Referring to Minute 09/14 (k) Parking St Johns Garth – It was assumed no further progress had been made as Mr Lyttle had not contacted the Clerk.

(k) Referring to Minute 09/14 (l) Youth Group – Mrs Street being present at the meeting it was agreed to hear from her under Open to the Public. The Chairman said that the group started at Barwick by the police had closed due to problems with running it and there being no qualified Youth Leaders available from LCC.

(l) Referring to Minute 09/14 (m) Railings Pump Hill – the horse owners had been spoken to.

(m) Referring to Minute 09.14 (n) Seat Cattle Lane – in the process of being completed.

(n) Referring to Minute 09/17 'For Information'(a) Aspen House – The Planning Enforcement Officer was dealing with the matter – awaiting her response.

(o) Referring to Minute 09/19 Surfacing of Bridge Main Street – completed.

(p) Referring to Minute 09/19 Litter/School involvement – it was suggested that a request be made for someone from LCC to meet with Councillors on site to see the areas requiring

attention. It was not known whether Cllr Alderson had progressed the idea of a poster with Mrs Heggie. To leave for next meeting.

(q) Referring to Minute 09/19 (d) CCTV for Main Street – Cllr Howson had attended two recent meetings with police representatives. He said that a Chief Inspector would come to a meeting when he had more information to give about CCTV which the police felt would be very helpful given the position of the village in relation to major roads etc. Any camera would cover the central area where the play equipment was situated for instance. However there would be a cost to the PC of between £4,000/£4,500 per annum.

(r) Referring to Minute 09/20 (a) Wind Turbine – Clerk had spoken to the Clerk of Micklefield PC and was informed there were no further developments at this time.

(s) Referring to Minute 09/20 (b) Cattle Lane speed sign – Cllr Howson had been in touch with LCC Highways who were maintaining the sign had not been further back towards Barwick. He had told them he could produce statements from several residents to testify that it had been 50/60 metres further back at one time. This would be progressed with a view to getting a flashing warning sign of some kind in that area.

09/25 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) A meeting of the LCC Allotments Working Group took place on 12th March – there had not been any feedback from the resident who had been forwarded some previous correspondence. Cllr Hancock undertook to try to contact the gentleman to see if he was interested in joining this group and reporting back to the PC from time to time.

(b) The Minutes of the Parish & Town Council/LCC Working Group Planning were with the Clerk for information.

(c) The date of the next Parish & Town Council Spring Conference would be 13th May. Details were to follow of events and seminars available.

(d) Mr Brummitt of SEC had emailed a plan about moving some streetlights in Cattle Lane, following the site meeting - this had been forwarded to councillors by email.

(e) From YLCA – information about ‘the policing pledge’ available to Councillors.

(f) The next Outer NE Area Committee Meeting would be held on 23rd March at 6.00p.m. in Wetherby Town Hall if anyone could attend. Cllr Forster said he might be able to attend – again the short notice was mentioned and no Agenda was available. The early start time was difficult for any working Councillor.

09/26 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

(a) Number P/09/00750/FU/HE – Conversion to Room & Store at ‘Stonesthrow’ 2 Field Lane – Cllrs. Howson and Stain had looked at this – there were no objections.

(b) Number P/09/00630/FU/HE – Single storey Front Extension & 2 Balconies at Upper Ground floor to front, Ash Tree House, Cattle Lane – Cllrs. Howson and Stainton had looked at this – there were no objections.

Decisions

(a) Number P/08/06078/FU – Extension to form 3 bed house to side Kennimar, Lotherton Lane – Cllrs had objected but this had been approved with very many conditions.

- (b) Number P/09/0002/FU/HE – First floor side extension and porch, 17 Highfield Road
Approved with some conditions about materials to be used.
- (c) Retrospective application – triple garage – Brackenridge House, Ridge Road.
Approved

09/27 ACCOUNTS

- (a) Cheque number 100221 in the sum of £373.00 was agreed by those present – to be ratified at the next meeting – for issue to Yorkshire Local Councils Association for Yearly membership.
- (b) Cheque number 100222 in the sum of £116.66 was agreed by those present – to be ratified at the next meeting – for the Clerk’s salary.
- (c) The sums in hand were

Barclays Bank	£40,000
HSBC current a/c	£ 4,436.14
HSBC no 1 a/c	£25,641.91
HSBC no 2 a/c	£38,753.25

09/28 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- (a) Following an article in the local paper about the introduction of a new fast bus service between Leeds and York via Tadcaster, a resident had approached the Chairman to see if this could divert through Barwick and Aberford. A meeting had been held with the Managing Director of First Bus who was very helpful and said that the service could not be amended initially as it would have to prove profitable for six months in order to continue in the first instance. Thereafter a short diversion would be borne in mind. In the meantime he asked if the 64 service bus might extend further north of the present terminus so that there could be a link-up with the new service. The Chairman felt this could be included as an item in the forthcoming Newsletter to see if there was a demand and a joint approach with Barwick & Scholes might be of benefit.
- (b) The PC would try to put out a Newsletter within the next few weeks. Clerk to take this forward and liaise with Councillors for items.

09/29 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (a) Youth Group – Mrs Louisa Street reported that there was movement towards her obtaining agreement to use the Village Hall on 2 evening per week. As matters were taking some time to be resolved, she had missed out on grant monies which would mean it would be September before she could now apply. Use of the lower floor of the Hall was being looked at which would require the installation of a unisex toilet as the upper floor facilities were not to be available. Two plumbers had been approached and a tentative figure of £4,000/£4,500 had been quoted for the work. Mrs Street indicated the kinds of equipment she would like to provide and the company ‘O2’ would grant her £1000 towards this with conditions as to publicity – it would be perhaps July before this could be in place. There would be a constitution for the Group and it would be members only. They would be allowed to bring a guest but the guest would have to abide by the constitution. Mrs Street had asked for the police to be around on the nights she would be using the Hall. The Chairman thanked Mrs Street for her up-to-date report and indicated that the PC was willing to give assistance when the final go-ahead from the Village Hall had been obtained. This

would have to be discussed by the full Council.

- (b) Mrs Street also told the PC that the City Council had approached school to have a marquee at the School Gala in order to get feedback from residents about their performance etc. The Gala committee had indicated this was acceptable but she wanted to let the PC know. The date was the last Saturday in June and the Chairman said that Cllr Gluck might be interested in attending on behalf of the PC given his involvement in the Parish Plan.
- (c) Mrs Guy, who was on the Village Hall Committee, indicated that the PC would shortly receive documentation in connection with the toilets for the Hall. She also talked about the anti-speeding exercises – that there were motorists speeding early in the morning and that she felt the police did not position themselves in the right places. The Chairman said he was shortly going to a meeting with the police and her points would be raised with them.
- (d) A member of the public mentioned that the Arabian Horse had been leaving out a bench on Pump Hill which it had been agreed would be removed overnight. The Chairman said he would speak to the landlord.
- (e) It was pointed out that the Post Box in Main Street Pump Hill was becoming overgrown with vegetation and had been blocked off before due to snails dropping in from the vegetation and contaminating the letters. Action was needed before this happened again. It was agreed to see the owner and ask him to arrange a cutback.
- (f) There was some feeling that the south end speed sign was being triggered too early and might need adjusting.

09/30 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone present before closing the meeting at 9.00p.m.

The Parish Council complies with the Mandatory Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act. Some sections of the Scheme are under development but information about the Council can be obtained from their website at: www.aberfordonline.com or by contacting the Clerk.